

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00
OES-06 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 STR-04 AGRE-00 CU-02 DHA-02
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R 211521Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0126
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
USUN NEW YORK 1826

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 3630

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, UR

SUBJECT: GREEK-SOVIET TALKS

REF: ATHENS 3425

1. DCM MILLS CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS ON APRIL 20 FOR A DEBRIEFING ON THE GREEK-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS OF APRIL 13-14, AS SUGGESTED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS (REFTEL).
2. TZOUNIS SAID THAT THE SOVIET TEAM HAD BEEN HEADED BY VASSILY GRUBYAKOV, FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ANKARA, WHO TZOUNIS SAID NOW HEADS THE SOVIET MJA DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE. TZOUNIS CHARACTERIZED THE DISCUSSIONS AS ROUTINE, COVERING THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

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3. BELGRADE CONFERENCE. THE SOVIETS FOLLOWED THEIR STANDARD LINE THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD LEAD TO FURTHER COOPERATION AMONG EUROPEAN NATIONS AND SHOULD NOT IN ITSELF BE A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY. THE GREEKS REPLIED THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD ALSO DEVELOP A BALANCE SHEET TO CORRECT ANY WEAKNESSES CONCERNING THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI MEETING. THE GREEKS NOTED THEIR DESIRE FOR SOME REFERENCE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

AS AN INDIVIDUAL GEOGRAPHIC AREA. THEY DID NOT MEAN THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE IS NOT THE PROPER FORUM FOR THAT, BUT THE FINAL ACT MENTIONS THE MEDITERRANEAN AND, THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE TOPIC AT THE CONFERENCE. TZOUNIS SAID THE SOVIETS HAD NOT REACTED IN ANY WAY TO THIS SUGGESTION. THE SOVIETS COMMENTED THAT THEY WERE BEING ASKED BY OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS (UNSPECIFIED) IF THEY WISHED TO DISCUSS AT BELGRADE BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL FOR THREE CONGRESSES TO EXAMINE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THE GREEKS REPLIED THAT THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION HAD BOTH EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THESE AREAS. IT WAS THUS A BETTER FORUM. GREECE LIKE OTHER SMALL COUNTRIES WAS AGAINST PROLIFERATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SINCE IT HAS LIMITED ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES TO PARTICIPATE IN THEM.

4. BALKAN CONFERENCE. THE SOVIETS AND GREEKS AGREED THAT REGIONAL COOPERATION IS DESIRABLE. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT REGIONAL GROUPINGS WHICH EXCLUDED OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. THE GREEKS TOLD THEM THEY THOUGHT BEST COURSE WAS TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITHIN REGIONAL CONTEXT AND THEN DETERMINE IF BROADER CONSULTATION WAS NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE.

5. PROPOSAL ON NON-FIRST UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE SOVIETS HAD COMMENTED THAT THEIR PROPOSAL ON NON-FIRST UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAD BEEN REJECTED BY NATO "WITHIN TWO HOURS", AND THEY STILL DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY. THE GREEKS REPLIED THAT WHILE THEY CANNOT SPEAK FOR NATO, CONFIDENTIAL

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AS INTERESTED PARTIES THEY THOUGHT THE REASON WAS THAT IF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE REMOVED FROM THE ARSENALS OF THE TWO OPPOSING BLOCS IN EUROPE, LEAVING ONLY CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE BALANCE OF POWER.

6. DISARMAMENT. THE SOVIETS REGARD THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AS A PREPARATORY STEP FOR A WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT. THE GREEKS RESPONDED THAT THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH IDEA OF A WORLD CONFERENCE, BUT REALISTICALLY CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS NOT IN THE CARDS BECAUSE SOME LARGER NUCLEAR POWERS DID NOT AGREE.

7. CYPRUS. THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED THAT CYPRUS SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED AND THAT ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. THE GREEKS HAD COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH THERE IS AN AGREED FORMULA, IT WAS THE INTERPRETATION OF HOW THAT FORMULA COULD BE ACHIEVED WHICH WAS CAUSING DIFFICULTIES. GREECE BELIEVED THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS AT VIENNA WERE NOT CONDUCIVE TO TRUE INDEPENDENCE.

IN FACT, THE PROPOSALS ENVISAGED TWO CYPRUS STATES, NOT ONE,
AND THE IDEA THAT CREATION OF THE SINGLE STATE COULD BE DONE IN
TWO STEPS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS OR TO GREECE.
THE SOVIETS SAID THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN CYPRUS INTERMS
OF INCREASING THEIR OWN RELATIVE POWER BUT THAT AS A MAJOR POWER
WITH IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN THEY WANTED
PEACE IN THE AREA. IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT THEY HAD PROPOSED
AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO SETTLE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.
TZOUNIS SAID THE GREEKS HAD NOT COMMENTED ON THE MERITS OF AN
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 3630

8. U.S.-SOVIET TALKS. TZOUNIS SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAD DECLINED
TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THE RECENT U.S.-SOVIET TALKS.

9. GREEK-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE SOVIETS SEEM TO
WANT TO ESTABLISH A CONVENTIONAL BASIS FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE TWO GOVERNMENTS--TREATIES, BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, ETC.
TZOUNIS SAID THAT A COMMERCIAL TREATY WILL BE SIGNED WITHIN A
FEW DAYS WHICH WILL INTRODUCE THE CURRENCY PAYMENTS FOR TRADE
IN PLACE OF CLEARING ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID THIS SHIFT
WAS MADE AT GREEK INITIATIVE. (NOTE: THIS EVIDENTLY REFLECTS
A CHANGE IN GREEK ATTITUDE TOWARD CLEARING ARRANGEMENTS,
RELATED TO GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR FULLMEMBERSHIP TO THE EC (SEE

ATHENS 3010 AND 3601). VICE MINISTER OF TRADE MANGULOV WILL TRAVEL TO ATHENS TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT. TZOUNIS SAID THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL ASSURE THE CONTINUED SALES OF GREEK CITRUS FRUITS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WITHOUT REQUIRING A CORRESPONDING PURCHASE OF SOVIET GOODS. SOME DIFFICULTIES REMAIN IN FORMULATING
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A CULTURAL AGREEMENT. AN AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION IS BEING DRAFTED AND MAY BE SIGNED SOON.

10. GREEKS LIVING IN RUSSIA. TZOUNIS SAID THERE WERE FOUR GROUPS OF GREEKS LIVING IN RUSSIA: 1) SOME 300,000 GREEKS OF RUSSIAN NATIONALITY; 2) COMMUNISTS WHO FLED GREECE AFTER THE CIVIL WAR WHO HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR GREEK CITIZENSHIP; 3) OTHER COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR GREEK CITIZENSHIP; AND 4) SOME 24-30,000 DESCENDENTS OF GREEK COLONISTS IN THE CRIMEA OR PONTIC GREEKS WHO FLED TURKEY DURING THE 1920'S. ONLY THE FOURTH CATEGORY WAS DISCUSSED. THEY HAD BEEN EVACUATED FROM THE BLACK SEA AREA TO KAZAKSTAN IN 1947. TZOUNIS SAID THEY HAD MAINTAINED THEIR GREEK CITIZENSHIP IN SPITE OF CONTINUING PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE NOW BEING ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION IN SMALL NUMBERS, HOWEVER. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WISHES TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR DEPARTURE IN AN ORDERLY MANNER SO THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND A PLACE IN SOCIETY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN GREECE. THE SOVIETS WERE MOST RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF EXIT VISAS AND NO PROGRESS WAS MADE DURING GRUBYAKOV'S VISIT. APPARENTLY, TZOUNIS CONCLUDED, THE SOVIETS DO NOT WANT ANY FOREIGN ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE GROUP AND ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT TRANSFER OF PENSION RIGHTS.
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